

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 4938

USIA FOR ILA AND IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP, UY
SUBJ: VISITING CONGRESSMAN MCDONALD'S
PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: MONTEVIDEO 4908

1. SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVING IN MONTEVIDEO DECEMBER 22
CONGRESSMAN MCDONALD HELD AN HOUR-LONG PRESS CONFERENCE
WHICH WAS FRONT-PAGE NEWS IN NEWSPAPERS OF DECEMBER 23.
PRESS QUESTIONS AND ABSTRACTS OF MCDONALD'S ANSWERS
FOLLOW:

Q. HOW AWARE ARE AMERICANS OF URUGUAY AND ITS
PROBLEMS?

A. AMERICANS IN GENERAL KNOW AS MUCH ABOUT URUGUAY
AS AN URUGUAYAN KNOWS ABOUT ALASKA OR WISCONSIN. THERE
ARE MANY CONGRESSMEN WHO KNOW URUGUAY'S SITUATION PER-
FECTLY.

Q. WHY DID YOU SEEK INTERVIEWS WITH PRESIDENT
APARICIO MENDEZ AND COUNCIL OF STATE PRESIDENT HAMLET REYES?

A. AS A MEMBER OF CONGRESS I AM OBLIGED TO KNOW
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ABOUT OTHER COUNTRIES, AND THESE INTERVIEWS ARE THE MOST
DIRECT WAY OF LEARNING ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF URUGUAY, A
COUNTRY BESET BY DIFFICULTIES WHAT ARE MAINLY ECONOMIC.
THIS IS A STUDY TRIP AND I AM GATHERING THE INFORMATION I
NEED.

Q. WHAT PRACTICAL APPLICATION WILL YOU GIVE THAT

INFORMATION?

A. I INTEND TO APPLY IT IN MY WORK AS A CONGRESSMAN, LOOKING FOR A WAY TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND URUGUAY, ESPECIALLY IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE.

Q. THESE DAYS IT IS OF COURSE KNOWN THAT THE U.S. MAY ADOPT PROTECTIONIST MEASURES THAT WILL HURT EXPORTS OF URUGUAYAN FOOTWEAR. IS IT LIKELY THAT SUCH MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN?

A. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY TO ME. DISCUSSION OF SUCH TOPICS IN CONGRESS IS UNDERTRAOD# REPRESENTATIVES OF CERTAIN STATES WHO ARE INTERESTED IN PROTECTING THEIR LOCAL INDUSTRY AND DOES NOT REFLECT THE GENERAL VIEW, ESPECIALLY AS PROTECTION OF ONE STATE'S INDUSTRY OFTEN MEANS THE PEOPLE OF ANOTHER STATE MUST PAY MUCH MORE FOR THE PRODUCT IN QUESTION THAN THEY WOULD FOR AN IMPORT.

Q. THE CONGRESS ADOPTED A POLICY MEASURE THAT AFFECTS URUGUAY BY CUTTING OFF MILITARY AID. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THAT?

A. IT WAS AN ILLOGICAL AND EVEN HYPOCRITICAL MEASURE SINCE IT DID AWAY WITH COLLABORATION WITH A FRIENDLY COUNTRY WHILE, ON THE OTHER HAND, (THE U.S. IS) GIVING TECHNOLOGY TO THE SOVIET UNION THAT COULD BE USED TO PRODUCE WEAPONS. SUCH AID TO THE USSR IS THE RESULT OF THE DIRECT INFLUENCE OF SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER.

Q. YOU MUST KNOW THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENT PRESSURES ON URUGUAY. FOR EXAMPLE, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. WHAT JUDGMENT DOES THIS ORGANIZATION DESERVE?

A. THE EVIDENT INTENTION OF AI IS TO PROJECT ANY HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM, HOWEVER SMALL, THAT OCCURS IN THE WEST. UNFORTUNATELY AI DOES NOT GIVE THE SAME ATTENTION TOO UNCLASSIFIED

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VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USSR AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

Q. HOW DO YOU INTERPRET THIS AMBIGUOUS BEHAVIOR?

A. AI IS INFILTRATED BY COMMUNISM, WHICH ALWAYS TRIES TO USE THE FREEDOM THAT EXISTS IN THE WEST FOR ITS OWN POLITICAL PURPOSES,

Q. RETURNING TO THE TOPIC OF MILITARY AID, WHY DID CONGRESS APPROVE THE KOCH AMENDMENT?

A. WHAT HAPPENS IS THAT CONGRESS ALLOWS LITTLE TIME FOR DISCUSSING AMENDMENTS AND MANY CONGRESSMEN VOTE WITHOUT HAVING STUDIED THE TOPIC ADEQUATELY BEFOREHAND.

Q. A STUDY GROUP HEADED BY SOL LINOWITZ RECENTLY PRESENTED A REPORT TO PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER RECOMMENDING A SERIES OF CHANGES IN U.S. POLICY TOWARD LATIN AMERICA. ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH IT?

A. I HAVE HEARD OF THE REPORT BUT AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH IT. BEING THE WORK OF LINOWITZ IT MUST REFLECT THE

POINT OF VIEW OF THE EXTREME LEFT, I.E. SOFT ON COMMUNISM.
LINOWITZ IS ONE OF THOSE ADVOCATING RENEWAL OF RELATIONS
WITH CUBA.

Q. YOU ARE AGAINST TAKING THAT STEP?

A. YES.

Q. HOW DO YOU THINK THE PANAMA CANAL PROBLEM SHOULD
BE SOLVED?

A. THERE IS STRONG SENTIMENT IN CONGRESS TO RETURN
THE CANAL TO PANAMA. I BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE A TREMENDOUS
MISTAKE, EQUIVALENT TO PUTTING IT IN SOVIET HANDS. GEN.
TORRIJOS IS LINKED TO COMMUNISM. BESIDES, UNDER PANAMANIAN
ADMINISTRATION OF THE CANAL, THE FEES WOULD TRIPLE OR
QUADRUPLE IMMEDIATELY.

Q. WOULD YOU SAY THAT THE PROBLEM OF COMMUNIST
PENETRATION IN LATIN AMERICA IS GRAVE AT THE PRESENT TIME?

A. THE DISEASE OF COMMUNISM STILL EXISTS AND NOW
ATTACKS BOLIVIA, MEXICO, AND PANAMA.

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 4938/2

A. WITH REGARD TO URUGUAY, ARE YOU INFORMED OF THE SUCCESSFUL
BATTLE AGAINST THE TUPAMAROS?

A. YES, IT WAS PART OF THE STRUGGLE AGAINST INTERNATIONAL

COMMUNISM. THE TUPAMAROS, THE MONTENEROS OF ARGENTINA AND OTHER SIMILAR MOVEMENTS WORLDWIDE ALL HAVE AS A COMMON PURPOSE THE DESTRUCTION OF WESTERN LIFE, OUR CHRISTIAN CIVILIZATION. THAT IS TRUE FOR THEIR JOINT ACTION AS WELL AS FOR WHAT THEY DO SEPARATELY.

Q. SO IN YOUR OPINION ALL THOSE GROUPS RESPOND TO COMMON DIRECTION. IS THAT DIRECTION FROM MOSCOW?

A. FROM MOSCOW AND FROM OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

Q. FROM CUBA, TOO?

A. YES.

Q. YOU SPOKE OF CHRISTIAN CIVILIZATION. WHAT IS YOUR FAMILY'S RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION?

A. WE ARE INDEPENDENT METHODISTS. THE DISTINCTION "INDEPENDENT" IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE SOME SECTORS OF TRADITIONAL METHODISM ARE HEAVILY INFILTRATED BY COMMUNISM.

Q. THE SAME THING IS SAID ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THIS?

A. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS BASICALLY AN IMPORTANT ENEMY OF COMMUNISM. DESPITE ANTI-COMMUNIST DOCTRINES OF PRELATES SUCH AS PIUS XI AND LEON XIII, THIS RELIGION, LIKE PROTESTANTISM, HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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ALSO BEEN INFILTRATED BY COMMUNISM.

Q. DID YOU COME AS PRESIDENT CARTER'S ENVOY OR IS IT A PERSONAL VISIT?

A. IT IS A PRIVATE TRIP.

Q. ON WHAT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE DO YOU SERVE?

A. ARMED SERVICES.

Q. ACCORDING TO A NEWS AGENCY, YOU SAID PINOCHET HAD SAVED CHILE FROM COMMUNISM.

A. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IN SEPTEMBER 1973 CHILE WAS ON THE VERGE OF BECOMING A NEW CUBA. IF PRESIDENT PINOCHET AND THE OTHER MILITARY CHIEFS HAD NOT ACTED IN TIME, CHILE WOULD HAVE MOVED TOWARD A CUBAN-TYPE REGIME.

Q. WHAT IS THE ROLE THAT THE ARMED FORCES MUST PLAY IN LATIN AMERICA?

A. IT DEPENDS ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES. WHERE THERE IS A BREAKDOWN IN THE ESTABLISHED POLITICAL SYSTEM TENDING TOWARD CHAOS AND ANARCHY, IT IS NECESSARY FOR EACH STABLE ELEMENT IN SOCIETY TO WORK TO RESTORE ORDER AND RESPECT FOR LIFE AND PROPERTY.

Q. DO YOUR OPINIONS AGREE WITH THOSE OF PRESIDENT CARTER?

A. I CANNOT SPEAK ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT CARTER. APPARENTLY THE MAIN FIGURE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILL BE CYRUS VANCE. I EXPECT THAT HE WILL ADOPT A BALANCED POSITION WITH RESPECT TO LATIN AMERICA, KEEPING IN MIND THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS POSED BY MARXISM AND TERRORISM TO THE STABILITY OF THE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

Q. WHAT COUNTRIES DID YOU VISIT AND WHOM DO YOU INTEND TO SEE IN MONTEVIDEO?

A. I VISITED THE HEADS OF SEVERAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING CHILE AND ARGENTINA. HERE I WILL HAVE THE PLEASURE TO TALKING WITH YOUR

PRESIDENT.

Q. DO YOU INTEND TO WRITE A REPORT FOR CONGRESS OR PRESIDENT CARTER?

A. I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A STUDENT OF THE PHENOMENON OF TERRORISM. IN TWO WEEKS MY SECOND BOOK ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL WILL COME OUT. IT DISCUSSES LINKS BETWEEN NORTH AMERICAN AND SOUTH AMERICAN TERRORISM. LATER I WILL PUBLISH #AF MORE BOOKS ABOUT TERRORISM IN NORTH AMERICA AND ESPECIALLY THE UNCLASSIFIED

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U.S.

Q. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE REQUEST MADE BY AN ORGANIZATION FOR THE DISMISSAL OF AMBASSADOR ERNEST SIRACUSA?

A. I BELIEVE YOU ARE REFERRING TO A REQUEST MADE BY A COMMITTEE HEADED BY SOL LINOWITZ. ALTHOUGH THIS MAY NOT BE THE CASE HERE, SOMETIMES COMMITTEES ARE FORMED TO EXERT PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD TO A CERTAIN TOPIC. THESE EFFORTS GENERALLY DO NOT SUCCEED AND THE COMMITTEES ARE DISSOLVED.

Q. WE HAVE ONE FINAL QUESTION. WHAT BENEFITS DO YOU HOPE TO RECEIVE FROM THIS TRIP TO URUGUAY?

A. A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE COUNTRY AND ITS GOVERNMENT, IN ORDER TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IN THE FUTURE FOR GREATER COOPERATION BETWEEN THIS COUNTRY AND MINE.

2. THE INTERVIEW, ACCOMPANIED BY PHOTOS, RECEIVED PROMINENT PRESS PLAY IN THE MONTEVIDEO PRESS. VERSIONS DIFFERED SLIGHTLY--COPIES BEING POUCHED TO ARA/ECA.
SIRACUSA

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